Guide to the Edward C. Tabler Papers

MS 1317



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

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CALL NUMBER: MS 1317

CREATOR: Tabler, Edward C.

TITLE: Edward C. Tabler papers

DATES: 1863-1977

BULK DATES: 1940-1977

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.75 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, research notes, bibliographies and photographs, principally relating to Edward Tabler's interest in the early history of South Africa and Rhodesia. Over half the letters to Tabler relate to his research and his correspondents include not only other scholars, but also the descendants of early explorers and settlers. These letters contain considerable substantive information, several illustrated with hand-drawn maps of southern Africa. Others discuss the political changes in Rhodesia (circa 1950-1970) from the point of view of the white minority. His research material includes typed transcriptions of nineteenth century South African diaries and manuscripts, his own notebooks and photographs, a bibliography of his writings, and biographical information.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Edward C. Tabler estate, 1979.

Conditions Governing Access

The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 153 instead of the originals.

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Preferred Citation

Edward C. Tabler Papers (MS 1317). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies

Correspondence, notebooks, bibliographies, and photographs are available on microfilm (3,025 frames on 3 reels, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM153.

Biographical / Historical

Edward C. Tabler (1916-1977) was an engineer who received his B.S. degree from the University of West Virginia in 1938, and his M.S. degree in 1940. He held various positions with Union Carbide, and was the author of many books on the history of South Africa and big game hunting.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the papers of Edward C. Tabler, Africanist and author. Over half of the collection consists of letters to Tabler from Africa, England, and the United States devoted primarily to research and publication of his writings on the early history of South Africa and Rhodesia. In connection with these writings he corresponded not only with other scholars but with descendants of early explorers and settlers in order to trace family correspondence, diaries, and accounts of southern Africa, a number of which he subsequently edited for publication. Enclosed in several letters are hand-drawn maps of Southern Africa (folders 17, 27, 63), while one letter from George L. Harrison (1940 Jan 2: folder 33a) encloses correspondence and receipts from 1842 to 1919.

Also reflected in the correspondence is Tabler's interest in collecting Africana and antiquarian books, and in big game hunting. One other recurrent topic is contemporary politics in Rhodesia and South Africa, especially the changes in the Rhodesian government from the 1950s through the 1970s, discussed from the point of view of the white citizenry.

The remainder of the collection is made up primarily of looseleaf notebooks of research notes and bibliographies compiled by Tabler, as well as typed transcripts of diaries and other manuscripts from

nineteenth century southern Africa. There are also a biographical sketch and clippings about Tabler, a bibliography of his writings and reviews of them, several photographs, and other miscellaneous items.

Collection Contents Inventory, 1863-1977

Correspondence b. 1, f. 1reel 1U A 1945, 1948, 1957-1961 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 2reel 1U Alexander, Otto J. 1965-1977 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 3reel 1U Allen, John, and Patricia 1957-1964 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 4reel 1U Anderson, J. B. W. 1962 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 4reel 1U 1967 Anderson, Jeremy L. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1. f. 5reel 1U Arkwright, C. H. 1967-1968, 1971 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 6reel 1U Axelson, Eric 1959-1971 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 7reel 1U В 1940, 1945-1976 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 8reel 1U Balkema, A. A. 1954-1957 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 8reel 1U Barber, Rex 1958-1959 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 9reel 1U Barclay, Edgar N. 1939 September 16 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals. b. 1, f. 10reel 1U Beadle, Hugh 1963-1976 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 153 instead of the originals.

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b. 4, f. 85, reel 4	Photographs	1965, 1971
b. 4, f. 86, reel 4	Lists of correspondence and miscellaneous papers	Undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

Africa Africa, Southern -- History South Africa -- History Zimbabwe -- History

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Subjects

Historians

Names

Schapera, I. (Isaac), 1905-2003 Tabler, Edward C. Wright, Howell, 1882-1954